

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 01, 2013

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: WW02 Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Nonini, Patrick, Durst and Buckner-Webb

Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Fulcher and Thayn, and Representative Wills

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Goedde** convened the Joint Education Committee at 8:02 a.m., and a silent roll was taken.

Chairman Goedde opened the meeting by reviewing ground rules so that everyone who wished to address the committee would have an opportunity to do so. He then yielded the floor to **Co-Chairman DeMordaunt**.

Co-Chairman DeMordaunt thanked everyone for coming, and welcomed those who could not attend to submit their thoughts via email. **Co-Chairman DeMordaunt** also stated that the School Board Association recently introduced legislation that they felt is important to more efficiently and effectively manage taxpayer dollars. Immediately upon introduction of that legislation, Chairman Goedde and Co-Chairman DeMordaunt brought many key stakeholder together to talk. This included the Idaho Education Association (IEA), the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), the Rural Schools Association, the Association of Superintendents and the Parent Teachers Association. In addition, **Co-Chairman DeMordaunt** assured the audience all bills presented would have a full public hearing. **Co-Chairman DeMordaunt** yielded the floor back to **Chairman Goedde** who noted that the meeting was being broadcast live on Idaho Public Television, and that written comments would continue to be accepted.

TESTIMONY: **Penny Cyr** stated that she is the current President of the IEA and a teacher of 28 years. She represents teachers who were unable to attend the meeting due to its timing, and requested that another meeting be held at a time when teachers could be present. She was concerned that **S 1037, S 1038, S 1039** and **S 1040** repeats the proposals which voters rejected in November. She asked that the committee to begin again with a collaborative process which involves everyone.

Penelope Manning expressed a similar view, adding that what secures the best teachers and improved student performance is early childhood education, smaller classes, administrative support, teacher salaries and benefits, continuing education and innovative programs like Common Core State Standards (Common Core). **Mike Lanza** agreed, adding that he is a member of the Governor's Task Force (Task Force), and that no legislation should be passed until the Task Force has finished its work. **Kathryn Stockton, Richard Newton, Sue Philley, Betty Richardson, Nancy Gregory, Jennifer Leuck, Peter Peterson, Brad Cederbloom, Ed Wardwell** and **Anne Pasley-Stuart** also stated that the new legislation duplicated the Luna Laws of 2011 which were overturned in November 2012, and should not be brought again.

Anne Ritter, President of the Idaho School Boards Association, said that the trustees left out the two largest concerns they heard on Proposition 1: tenure and scope of negotiation. She stated financial insecurity has created problems due to flat funding, and requested legislative help. She explained that levies can only take effect for two years, and if the levy fails, the schools still must balance the budget.

Alan Dunn, on behalf of the board of trustees, supported pay for performance and a three percent increase in base funding. Operating on a lean budget, his district teachers clean their own classrooms rather than pay outside services.

Don Keller, parent, charter founder, school administrator and board member of the Idaho Charter School Network, stated several key points to be kept in mind: there are 44 charter schools in the state of Idaho, serving 1,850 students. Were charter schools to be made their own school district, they would be the largest in the state. Charter schools spend operating funds for facilities, while public schools do not, nor do charter schools have access to local facilities financing resources. **Mr. Keller** asked that the legislature address funding to charter schools in this legislative session.

Ronalee Linsenmann reminded the committee that charter schools were designed to be the "incubators of good practices" so that the public schools could adopt those practices. She felt this concept has been lost. She also advocated the teaching of cursive writing because penmanship itself creates a personal identity.

Speaking as parents at Sage International Charter School (Sage), **Don Keller, Dylan Andrade, Chris Marshall, Bryan Moore, Carolyn Robinson, Issac Wells, Chris Schieve, Keith Donahue, Frank Coprivnicar**, and students, **Max Keller, Katie Bush, Graham Hill, Lyly Gregory and Bailey Schieve** testified about the superior learning environment at Sage. All favored school choice and many asked that the legislature equally fund charter and public schools, rather continuing the \$3,084 per student gap in funding that exists now. Many also requested additional funding for charter school facilities. **Zach Parker** added that all school boards and administrators need more flexibility.

Speaking as parents and students at Village Charter School, parents **Penny and Aidan Sites, Alyssa Knox, Berkely Smith, Nicole Stull**, and students **Alek Komrul** and **Holland Stull** testified in support of school choice, more funding for charter schools, equal funding per student, and more parent involvement.

Regarding charter schools in general, **Leslie Mauldin**, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, explained the funding gap between public and charter schools and the need for funding equality. **Dallas Gudgell, LeAnn Simmons** and **Lalaneya Henderson** requested additional funding, especially maintenance funding, for charter schools. **Steve Berch** also urged additional funding for public schools.

Rod Morse spoke about the Task Force, and also put forth an idea of requiring academic standards in order for students to get a driver's license. **Russ Joki** said that schools are not uniform, not thorough, and not free. He felt it was the state's duty to replace lost revenues. **Ryan Riley** stated that vouchers can work if the money is given back to parents for services not rendered by the state. He also supports dual enrollments. **Ann Marie Rhoades** reminded the committee that adults need tutoring and educational opportunities. She supports professional-technical education. **Steve Smylie** said that the focus always should be on doing what is best for the children. **Beth Oppenheimer** stressed the need for early childhood education. **Sue Lovelace** urged teachers to teach high level college preparatory classes. **Jennifer Leuck** felt that class size is an important issue, and urged the committee to visit a school and sit in a on classroom in progress. **Bill Zimmerman** expressed concern about Common Core standards. **Victoria Young** called for a new approach to focus on improvement; **Gary Smith** agreed, urging the committee to adopt a plan to hold the state accountable in producing better prepared students in order to remain competitive in the world market.

ADJOURNED: Having heard all testimony requested by the public, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary